

Romaine Urges County to Remove 26-acres of Sensitive Property From Auction Block For Preservation

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Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine is urging Suffolk County to remove six parcels totaling nearly 26 acres from the upcoming property auction list, and instead preserve them because of their significant ecological, recreational, environmental, and agricultural value.

Town officials recently reviewed the properties located in Brookhaven Town which are proposed for sale in the upcoming auction on October 28-30, and recommend that these parcels be preserved through their removal from the auction list and formally dedicated by the County as open space. See attached letter .

"The County's plan to auction these environmentally sensitive parcels is counterproductive to our efforts to preserve open space," said Supervisor Romaine. "As Brookhaven Town Supervisor and previously as a County Legislator, I have made land preservation a top priority and I ask the County Executive and Legislature to reconsider this action, come to the table and work on a plan that will protect these properties from future development."

The most significant parcel is a 6.1 acre property situated on the south side of Route 25 in Middle Island. It is in the Compatible Growth Area of the LI Pine Barrens, and close to the boundary of the Carmans River watershed. The property is heavily wooded and would further efforts to connect the proposed Middle Island hiking trail between Cathedral Pines County Park and the Town's Twin Ponds Nature Preserve holdings.

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "Preserving open space is vital to maintain the rural nature of the North Shore communities. I stand firm with the Supervisor in calling for the County to take another look at their plan and confer with Town officials before they do anything that could threaten these properties and others throughout the Town."

Also on the list is a 15.07 acre property in Eastport, which is situated within the Compatible Growth Area of the LI Pine Barrens. It is adjacent to agriculturally protected property and is within a broader assemblage of protected open space and farmland involving several hundred acres. More significantly, the property is within the Town of Brookhaven's Eastport Farm Protection Area, one of only two such designated areas in the Town and an area in which farmland protection is a top priority.

A small wooded property, totaling .27 acres, at the headwaters of Little Seatuck Creek is also on this auction list. This property is in an area which Suffolk County and Brookhaven Town have preserved several parcels for open space purposes to protect water flowing into this tributary of Moriches Bay.

In addition, the Town has identified two small properties situated within the Compatible Growth Area of the LI Pine Barrens that are part of a large assemblage of small properties that front along North Street in North Shirley that are vegetated with species typical to upland communities in the Pine Barrens. Finally, Brookhaven is seeking to preserve a 4.1 acre property in Manorville that is vegetated and contains species typically found in upland Pine Barrens communities.

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